

ACTION NEA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CA-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	H-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	M-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	EPAU-00	PA-00	GIWI-00	SA-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5539
 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMEMBASSY RIYADH
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
 HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
 INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 005971

DEPARTMENT FOR PA, NEA/ARN, INR/IC/CD, INR/S:STHIBEAULT
 VOA NEWS CA, NEA/PPD:CBURGEOIS, DBENZE AND AFERNANDEZ,
 IIP/G/NEA-SA RWINCHESTER
 WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
 CENTCOM FOR CCPA

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, PREL, KPAO, OPRC, SY
 SUBJECT: Damascus Media Reaction: Syria/China, Syria/US,
 Iraq, Palestinian Territories (11/16)

1. Summary: All Syrian papers reported the visit to Beijing of a Syrian MFA delegation and cited a statement by a Chinese Deputy FM rejecting politicization of the International Investigation Commission report and rejecting any economic sanctions on Syria. Government-owned Al-Thawra reported an AFP interview with Egyptian FM Abul-Ghait encouraging Syria and Mehlis to show more flexibility about the place to question Syrian witnesses, saying that there would be no problem about this issue if there were good will between Syria and Mehlis. The same paper reported a statement by US Ambassador to Cairo Ricciardone, following his meeting with Arab League SecGen Amr Mousa, that cooperation between Syria and the UN is what counts, regardless of the location and the way the IIC

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handles the investigation.

All papers reported a statement by Yemeni President Saleh subsequent to his visit to Japan, France and the US, emphasizing the importance of the continuing dialogue with Syria, which has confirmed Syria's cooperation with the International Investigation Commission.

End of summary.

2. Selected Headlines:

"Egyptian FM Abul-Ghait and US Ambassador in Cairo confirm: No problem about the place of questioning Syrian witnesses" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 11/16)

"China rejects any politicization of the international investigation commission. Yemeni President Saleh reiterates the importance of dialogue between Syria, France and the US" (Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 11/16)

"Speaker of the People's Assembly Mahmoud al-Abrash and Information Minister Mahdi Dakhallah discuss parliamentary and media cooperation with a delegation representing the Brazilian Communist Party led by its Chairman Renato Rabilo, who emphasizes full support for Syria" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/16)

"Iranian FM Mottaki reiterates the strength of Syrian-Iranian relations: Iranian government, Iranian President and Iranian people support Syria" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/16)

"In a message of support and solidarity, the Algerian National Council rejects pressure on Syria: It reflects the influence of Zionist lobby and Israeli strategy" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/16)

"Kuwaiti Information Minister Al-Rasheed stresses credibility of Syrian policy in dealing with regional and international changes: What is circulated in some of our media doesn't represent the whole Kuwaiti people" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/16)

"Abbas accuses Israel of enflaming a civil war among Palestinians. Israel and the Palestinian Authority reach an agreement on opening the border crossings. Hamas rejects the agreement" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 11/16)

"Al-Jaafari participates in the preliminary meeting for the Iraqi reconciliation conference in Cairo. Killing of three US marines and scores of gunmen in Al-Abidi" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 11/16)

3. Editorial Block Quotes:

"Adopting US Discourse"

Ahmad Dawwa, an editorialist in government-owned Al-Thawra,

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commented: "Some Lebanese politicians are not ashamed to adopt publicly the US discourse toward Syria, yet they express surprise at President Asad's remark, in his recent speech, that Lebanon, under the current government, has turned into a passageway, a base, and a factory for conspiracies against Syria.

"A Lebanese politician said that the problem is not with the Syrian people but with the Syrian regime; this is exactly what the US Secretary of State and other American officials are saying. Let this politician visit any part of Syria and he will find that his problem is with all the Syrian people....

"There is no doubt that there isn't any problem between the Syrian people and the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces, which have begun to express their rejection of the attempt to place the country under foreign trusteeship which has cost Lebanon its ability to control its political decisions. This increases the dangers that threaten Lebanon and the whole region. Regrettably, many Lebanese officials realize this, but they try to mislead their people by making statements that cause them to sink deeper into the American and Western schemes day after day....

"The Syrian people know full well that the Lebanese parliamentary majority does not represent the popular majority, and that the Lebanese nationalist forces, which are known for their national and pan-Arab positions, will always be on the side of Syria, which joined them in confronting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the siege of Beirut and contributed to the liberation of the south."

"The attempt to harm cohesion between the Syrian people and leadership is a conspiracy aimed at serving the foreign pressure on Syria...."

"US Record of Human Rights"

Muhammad Ali Buza, an editorialist in government-owned Al-Thawra, wrote: "The United States, under the current administration of neoconservatives and Zionist rightists, should be the last to speak of democracy and human rights....

"The US Administration is committing serious human rights violations, systematic mass killings, genocides, arrests, and brutal torture in Iraq and Afghanistan and in the prisons of Abu-Ghuryb, Bagram, Guantanamo, and other secret

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detention centers in some Eastern European countries....

"No one in Syria, the region, or the world needs the democracy of Bush, Rice, Rumsfeld, Bolton, and the other hawks. No one needs their advice, dictates, and fatal humanism, which they revive when they need and employ in the service of their belligerent plans, with or without the cover of international legitimacy. None of these peoples, certainly not the Arabs, is indebted to the United States or to this administration. It is this administration that owes them not only an apology -- as this would not be enough -- but also an effort to atone for all its crimes and wrong policies and to stop interfering and tampering with security, stability, and peace...."

"Forging of Facts"

Muhammad Khair al-Jammali, a commentator in government-owned Al-Thawrah, commented: "President George Bush has accused Syria of threatening and destabilizing the Lebanese government and called on Damascus to cooperate fully with the international investigation commission into the Al-Hariri assassination and to stop exporting violence and begin importing democracy.

"US officials and their allies in Paris and London are accusing Syria of things that they themselves are practicing: violence, terrorism, spread of destructive chaos, intimidation of the countries of the region, and sponsorship of the agents who implement their orders and serve their destructive colonialist plans....

"When President Asad discussed the Lebanese, Iraqi, and Palestinian situations in his speech, he put the Arab peoples in the picture of developments and explained the dangers Syria and the Arab nation are facing. He did not threaten anyone or try to export violence and instability.

"The real violence and intimidation is represented by the US Administration's threats to change governments, impose sanctions, and invade countries.... The US Administration will continue to accuse Syria of pursuing policies that it

itself is pursuing -- policies that threaten regional and international stability -- as long as it is under the pressure of its domestic and foreign crises, which were caused by its hypocrisy, its big mistakes in the war on Iraq, and its endeavors to dominate the world and support Israel in its aggression against the Arabs and their rights

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and international legitimacy.

"As for Syria, it will stick to its human and pan-Arab positions. Through the cohesion of its people, the firmness of its leadership, and the support of free men in the Arab nation and the world, Syria will be able to confront the pressure and speak the truth about all the campaigns of intimidation against it and all the policies of forgery pursued by the forces that have ambitions in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, and all the Arab land...."

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